



CITY COUNCIL

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
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Council sets its sights on Public Health, Safety, and Welfare *Pedestrian safety, bicycle safety, and emergency assistance are at the forefront*

Honolulu City Council: Councilmember Donovan M. Dela Cruz introduced a comprehensive package to promote public health, safety, and awareness to help make Honolulu a safer, healthier city.

Dela Cruz, the Chair of the Honolulu City Council's Public Safety and Services Committee and a strong supporter of bicycle and pedestrian safety, recognizes the importance of promoting legislation that will support bicycle usage by making bike safety and convenience a priority, and also improving crosswalk safety to prevent pedestrian accidents.

Dela Cruz also wants to assure that city's current fleet of ambulances and emergency notification vehicles are adequate to meet the emergency needs on Oahu.

Measures introduced include the following:

Relating to bicycle safety and awareness

- Bill 30 (2009), requires the Director of Transportation Services to plan, develop and install bicycle lockers at all city facilities.
- Resolution 09-83, requests the Department of Transportation Services to investigate the feasibility of implementing a green bike box program in Honolulu to prevent collisions between bicyclists and motorists. A green bike box is an intersection safety design to prevent bicycle/car collisions, especially those between drivers turning right and bicyclists going straight. It is a green box on the road with a white bicycle symbol inside and includes green bicycle lanes approaching and leading from the box.
- Resolution 09-84, requests the Department of Transportation Services to investigate the feasibility of implementing a public bicycle sharing program, similar to those used in Washington D.C.; Montreal, Canada; and Rennes, France.

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“Bicycle transportation can be a more viable option if the city works towards making bicycle safety and convenience a priority,” said Dela Cruz. “Bicycles are a healthy transportation option but we need to continue to explore ways to make bicycle travel a safe and convenient option as well.”

Promoting public safety and welfare

- Resolution 09-85, requests the Department of Transportation Services to identify crosswalks which have had the most pedestrian accidents and install in-road lighting, and other appropriate traffic safety devices to improve pedestrian safety.
- Resolution 09-86, requests the city auditor to conduct an audit to determine if the city’s current fleet of ambulances, and current fleet of emergency notification vehicles are sufficient to meet the emergency assistance needs on Oahu.
- Resolution 09-87, urges the city, state, and federal governments to prioritize and expedite the installation of new civil defense sirens and to repair and upgrade existing sirens.

“Ensuring the health and safety of its citizens should always be a priority for government,” said Dela Cruz.

“These measures are aimed at improving the health and safety of our residents while supporting the work of our city departments and first responders.”

Also included in the package are Resolutions 09-88 and 09-89, which initiate amendments to the Revised City Charter to provide that the director of emergency services and the medical examiner be chosen through the civil service system and be subject to civil service laws.

“I believe that the director of emergency services and the medical examiner positions are non political, therefore, it makes sense to initiate a process to select these positions through the civil service system,” said Dela Cruz.

For more information please contact Councilmember Dela Cruz’s Senior Advisor, Kimberly Ribellia, at 768-5036.

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